

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 DOTE-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 DRC-01 /109 W

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P 071159Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0044

INFO NAVELECSYSCOMHQ WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, ETRN, LI

SUBJECT: OMEGA: LIBERIA STATION

1. OMEGA REPS CDRS. RICHARDSON AND ASCHE HAVE OPENED
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOL CONCERNING MECHANISM FOR POST-
CONSTRUCTION OPERATION OF STATION.

2. RESPONSIBILITY FOR POST CONSTRUCTION OPERATION WILL BE
TRANSFERRED FROM GOL MINISTRY OF LANDS AND MINES TO MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION (MCIT), BUREAU OF
TRANSPORTATION, HEADED BY ASSISTANT MINISTER NATHANIEL MARSH.
CURRENT THINKING ON PART GOL IS THAT MINISTRY WILL CONTRACT
QUALIFIED FIRM OPERATE STATION. USG WILL PROVIDE FUNDS COVER
COST OF CONTRACT DIRECTLY TO MCIT WHICH WILL PAY CONTRACTOR.
OMEGA REPS SEE NO PROBLEM IF THIS ROUTE FOLLOWED. HOWEVER,
THEY PREFER USG CONTRACT DIRECTLY WITH OPERATING FIRM
MAXIMIZING UTILIZATION LIBERIAN PERSONNEL AND GOL INVOLVEMENT
DURING INITIAL TWO-YEAR PERIOD STATION OPERATION.

3. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, IF PLAN DESCRIBED PARA 2 FOLLOWED,
OMEGA STATION WOULD BE DIRECTLY UNDER SUPERVISION OFTEN
INTRASIGENT MINISTER WILLIAM DENNIS WHO HAS HISTORY INTERFERING
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(IN CASE PAN AM AIRPORT MANAGEMENT) IN DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS.

EMBOFFS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT DIRECT GRANT MCIT WITHOUT
IRONCLAD GUARANTEE FUNDS FOR CONTRACTOR COULD NOT BE DIVERTED
EVEN TEMPORARILY FOR ALTERNATE USES OR DISBURSEMENT DELAYED
INFLUENCE STATION PERSONNEL POLICIES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DOES DEPARTMENT PERCEIVE ANY PROBLEMS
IN PRINCIPLE, LEGAL OR OTHERWISE, WITH USG PROVIDING FUNDS
DIRECTLY TO A GOL MINISTRY FOR PAYMENT CONTRACTOR? WOULD
ESTABLISHMENT SEPARATE OMEGA AUTHORITY (WHICH WOULD PROBABLY
STILL BE CHAIRED BY MCIT OFFICIAL) BE PREFERABLE? EMB
INTERPRETS STATION AGREEMENT AS PERMITTING USG CONTRACT
DIRECTLY WITH OPERATING FIRM FOR AT LEAST FIRST TWO-YEAR
PERIOD. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS.

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